

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 9 has been amended to more positively recite the features of the present invention whereby the method of assembling an electrical connection box comprises, in particular, laying a leader of a wire in the holding portion using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the leader of the wire, including any bent portion, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board, and operating the cutter to cut a trailer of the wire, such that a piece of the wire remaining between the head of the automatic laying apparatus and the cutter comprises a wire leader for a subsequent laying operation, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 11, lines 2-7..

In addition, claim 9 has been amended to recite that the holding portion securely holds the wire leader regardless of curling or bending of the wire leader, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 11, lines 7-27.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and USP 5,709,564 ("Yamada et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 9, a method of assembling an electrical connection box is provided which comprises:

providing first and second casings that are capable of being combined with each other;

providing an electrically insulating wiring board between the first and second casings, wherein the wiring board comprises a laying groove in a desired shape and a holding portion, the holding portion being wider than the laying groove;

laying a leader of a wire in the holding portion using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the leader of the wire, including any bent portion, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board;

laying the wire in the laying groove of the wiring board using the automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter;

operating the cutter to cut a trailer of the wire, such that a piece of the wire remaining between the head of the automatic laying apparatus and the cutter comprises a wire leader for a subsequent laying operation; and

combining the first and second casings with the wiring board located therebetween;

wherein the holding portion securely holds the wire leader regardless of curling or bending of the wire leader.

As pointed out in the Amendment filed September 30, 2003 and as described in detail in the Response filed August 26, 2003, the structure of the present invention as recited in claim 9 prevents the wire leader from projecting out of or being lifted out of the laying groove so that the wire leader can be securely held in the holding portion even if it is bent in any direction, without regard to the winding direction of the wire and the direction of attachment of the cutter that is used to cut the wire after the laying operation.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Yamada et al discloses a method for creating a plurality of electrically independent circuits from an already laid wire. (See, for example, the abstract of Yamada et al.) And it is respectfully submitted that the technique disclosed in Yamada et al applies not to the claimed method of laying a wire using an automatic

laying apparatus, but rather to a method for creating a plurality of electronic circuits from a wire that is already laid.

The technique of Yamada et al must therefore be performed after the wire is laid, as described in the specification of the present application at page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 3, "As shown in FIG. 2, the wire is arranged with one stroke along a predetermined path of the laying groove 13s. In order to form a plurality of electrically independent circuits, the wire W is cut at given spots, and a plurality of pressure-welded terminals 13t are driven in given positions on the wire W."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Yamada et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the method of the present invention as recited in amended claim 9 whereby a leader of a wire is laid in the holding portion using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the leader of the wire, including any bent portion, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board.

In addition, since Yamada et al merely discloses cutting already laid wire, it is respectfully submitted that Yamada et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the method of the present invention as recited in amended claim 9 whereby the cutter is operated to cut a trailer of the wire, such that a piece of the wire remaining between the head of the

automatic laying apparatus and the cutter comprises a wire leader for a subsequent laying operation.

Still further, as pointed out in the Amendment filed September 30, 2003, Yamada et al discloses a method for forming a plurality of wiring circuits in which a wire is positively bent during the wire cutting process. (See, for example, the abstract of Yamada et al.) And it is therefore respectfully submitted that Yamada et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended claim 9 whereby the holding portion securely holds the wire leader regardless of curling or bending of the wire leader.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Yamada et al is directed to an aspect of forming an electrical connection box which is completely different from the aspect addressed by the present invention, and that Yamada et al does not even recognize the problem of securely holding a curled or bent leader of a wire. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Yamada et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the solution to the problem addressed by the present invention whereby the holding portion securely holds the wire leader regardless of curling or bending of the wire leader.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings of Yamada et al and the Admitted Prior Art are not properly combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, and that the

present invention as recited in amended independent claim 9, as well as each of claims 10 and 11 depending therefrom, patentably distinguishes over the combination of the Admitted Prior Art and Yamada et al under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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